



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER BRANSON SCHOOL EMPLOYEE INDICTED FOR \$50,000 EMBEZZLEMENT

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former employee of the Branson, Mo., R-IV School District was indicted by a federal grand jury today for embezzling more than \$50,000 from the school district.

Janette McSpadden, 41, of Branson, was charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Each of the four counts contained in the indictment alleges a separate instance in which **McSpadden** embezzled more than \$5,000. Today's indictment also includes a notice of special findings, which alleges that the fraud loss from the alleged offenses exceeded \$50,000. According to the indictment, **McSpadden** abused a position of public and private trust in a manner that significantly facilitated the commission and concealment of the offenses alleged in the indictment.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **McSpadden** embezzled more than \$5,000 from the Branson school district from Oct. 11, 2000 to Dec. 7, 2000.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **McSpadden** embezzled more than \$5,000 from the Branson school district during the calendar year 2001.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **McSpadden** embezzled more than \$5,000 from the Branson school district during the calendar year 2002.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **McSpadden** embezzled more than \$5,000 from the Branson school district from February 2003, to July 26, 2003.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Taney County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow